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From: editor@mountainwestnews.org
Sent: Fri 6/13/2014 5:39:13 PM
Subject: Mountain West News Daily Newsletter

Flathead Lake Sunrise

Photo courtesy of
Rick and Susie
Graetz

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Mountain West News is a
program of the
O'Connor Center for the Rocky
Mountain West at
The University of Montana

Friday,
June 13, 2014

Produced by Shellie Nelson, MW News Editor

[Mountain West Voices](#)

Editor's notes:

In the **Rockies today**, Alberta is working on revisions to its 2008 climate-change strategy, fire officials warn Idaho could have a rough wildfire season, Montana settles a tribal voting rights case and a new report on states' education spending keeps Utah dead last in the nation.

[Trio of books examines man.](#)

Alberta Environment Minister Robin Campbell confirmed that the province is working on a revision of its 2008 climate change strategy, but confirmed that the province does not intend to make changes to its emissions-reductions goals.

Mountain West

[New report highlights opportunities in the Colorado](#)

On Thursday, Idaho communities were warned that two years of reduced precipitation could fuel a rough wildfire season.

Mountain West

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The federal voting rights-case filed by tribes against Montana and three counties has been settled, with the state agreeing to open voter registration offices on three reservations in October.

And an analysis done of states' spending on education in fiscal years 2009 through 2012 found that, despite Idaho's 12.3 percent decline in education spending during that time, Utah still remained last in per-pupil spending.

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On Sunday, Yellowstone Public Radio will broadcast Mountain West Voices at 7 a.m.

This weekend's program comes from the Nekaneet Cree reserve in southwest Saskatchewan, where Elder Linda Oakes talks about racism, about the politics of language, and about her family's fight to remain in their ancestral home in the Cypress Hills.

Tune into Yellowstone Public Radio at 7 a.m. on Sunday to hear the program or listen online via the Mountain West Voices [website](#).

Quote of the day:

"What we're worried about is what's recontaminating the system. We talk about being able to go to anyone — an individual, a house, a business — who is discharging something and unambiguously trace back to them. That gets you into a whole different conversation with people about responsibilities and remedies."

Joel Baker, the science director at the Center for Urban Waters in Tacoma, a joint city-academic nonprofit research center, about the [Washington state's city's work to curb pollution caused by storm run-off](#).

- New York Times

Rockies today

Alberta's revision of climate-change strategy will keep current emissions targets

Environment Minister Robin Campbell said that Alberta is currently working on revising the 2008 climate change plan, but no changes are planned to the goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Calgary Herald; June 13

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Warning issued about dire wildfire season in Idaho

At a press conference on Thursday, federal lands officials warned that Idaho will likely see a worse wildfire season this year than in previous years, due to lower levels of precipitation over the past two years.

Idaho Statesman; June 13

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Working group helps Montana FWP craft mountain-lion hunt changes

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission's first proposed changes to mountain lion hunts drew a barrage of criticism in April, and a working group that included elk and deer hunters, houndsmen and hunters helped create new quotas approved at the Commission's meeting on Thursday.

Missoulian (Helena Independent Record); June 13

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Montana tribes settle voting access lawsuit

To settle a federal lawsuit brought by tribal members on voting access on three

reservations in Montana, the state has agreed to open satellite voting offices in October on the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Fort Belknap reservations.

Missoulain (AP); June 13

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Idaho ranked third in U.S. for increase in gross state product

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released data for the year 2013 that indicated Idaho ranked third in the nation for percentage increase in gross state product, with the health care, finance, construction and natural resources sectors credited for the majority of the 6.9 percent bump.

Idaho Statesman; June 13

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Utah falls further behind in per-pupil education funding

An analysis of states' education funding between fiscal years 2009 and 2012 done by Ben Casselman at the FiveThirtyEight blog found that Idaho had the largest percentage decline of 12.3 percent, but Utah remained at the bottom of the U.S. in education funding at \$6,193 per pupil.

Salt Lake Tribune; June 13

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Alberta NDP questions province's plan on hydraulic fracturing

Next week Alberta's Energy Regulator is scheduled to meet with oil and gas operators to discuss a pilot project to reduce regulation of the drilling method known as hydraulic fracturing and a streamlined process for approval of developing oil and gas wells using that process, a meeting NDP leaders are challenging.

Calgary Herald (Edmonton Journal); June 13

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Idaho U.S. Rep. Labrador reportedly in contention for leadership post

Idaho U.S. Rep. Raul Labrador has been touted as the tea party alternative to Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of California to replace House Majority Leader Eric Cantor after Cantor lost his primary race this week.

Idaho Statesman; June 13

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Water

City in Washington state gets tough on water pollution

Tacoma has spent millions of dollars over the past decade to clean up old industrial storm drains that were sending polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, and other pollutants into Puget Sound, and now the city in Washington state's data-driven system of doggedly tracing each pollutant back to its source, its scrubbing pipes that carry run-off, its willingness to impose heavy fines on polluters and its use of "rain gardens," to collect run-off have drawn admirers from around the globe.

New York Times; June 13

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Pavillion landowners question Wyoming's groundwater testing plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency handed over the investigation of the source of pollution in groundwater near Pavillion to Wyoming after the preliminary findings of the federal agency, which linked the pollution to natural-gas drilling operations, were questioned, but local landowners are questioning the state's decision to not test for a glycol surfactant that was included in the EPA's tests.

Casper Star-Tribune; June 13

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New Mexico drought sparks battle over reservoirs

Plans by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expand the capacity of Abiquiu Lake in New Mexico to hold more San Juan-Chama water piped across the Continental Divide to Heron Lake from the Colorado River drainage has sparked opposition from landowners around the higher-elevation Heron Lake, which is also authorized to hold

San Juan-Chama water and which is nearly dry.

Albuquerque Journal; June 13

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Colorado, N.M. watershed group launches website

The San Juan Watershed Group, which is made up of residents and public agencies interested in the San Juan, Animas and La Plata rivers in Colorado and New Mexico, now has a [website](#) through the San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District that is headquartered in Aztec.

Durango Herald; June 13

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Opinion

Trek up Colorado mountain provides insight into Storm King disaster

On July 6, a ceremony will be held on Storm King Mountain just west of Glenwood Springs to commemorate 20th anniversary of the loss of 14 wildland firefighters on the Colorado mountain, and Vail Daily Editor and Publisher Don Rogers shares his experience during a training exercise designed to show people what those firefighters faced on the mountain.

Vail Daily; June 13

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Beyond the region

Enbridge's 'Alberta Clipper' expansion project moves along in Minnesota

An administrative law judge in Minnesota ruled that Enbridge had successfully proved the need to expand the capacity of its "Alberta Clipper" pipeline project across the northern part of that state, moving final approval of the project on to that state's Public Utilities Commission.

Calgary Herald (AP); June 13

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North, South Dakota senators introduce National Bison Legacy Act

The National Bison Legacy Act introduced Wednesday by U.S. senators from North and South Dakota would make bison the national mammal.

Casper Star-Tribune (AP); June 13

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Prehistoric elephant skull discovered in N.M. state park

Campers at Elephant Butte Lake State Park in New Mexico discovered what paleontologists said may be the largest intact skull of a stegomastodon found to date.

Santa Fe New Mexican (Las Cruces Sun-News); June 13

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Tribes:

Tribe questions CERA meeting in Wyoming city

Environment:

Interior Dept. says Utah company did not report Wyoming production

Environment:

Fire danger bumped up to 'moderate' in W. Wyoming

Economy:

[Colorado ski resorts report record-setting season](#)

Politics:

[Libertarian candidates to participate in Montana debates Saturday](#)

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